MR. C. S. KSISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : I think to a great extent it has passed now.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether Government is of opinion that the circumstances which prompted the resolutions till subsists now in an aggravated form ?

MR. C S. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : I am not quite sure whether they exist in the same form now. Conditions have changed for the better to some extent. But that is not the only consideration on which the salary cut is not proposed to be given effect to. The salary cut was proposed with a view to keep down the expenditure on salaries which was very high but question of a permanent cut was under consideration at the same time. And of the two the Government thought it better that a permanent cut should be given effect to. So a temporary cut in salaries was not given effect to, to tide over the present difficulty. It is not necessary to go in for a cut now when, even in places where it was given effect to elsewhere, the cut is being restored.

Reduction of the expenditure on salaries.

30. ✻ MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government on the resolution passed in this Assembly at the last Budget Session for reducing the expenditure on salaries ?

MR. C. S. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): In view of the standardization of salaries, that was then in contemplation and subsequently brought into effect, Government consider that no further action is necessary for the time being on the resolution in question.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, that is an identical question.

PRESIDENT : Then let us pass on to the next one.

Interest realised from the defaulting purchasers of Forest Coupes

31. ✻ MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) with reference to the answer to question No. 316 (*b*), given during the Third Session of this Assembly, whether they are aware that different rates of interest are being realised in different Divisions ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the reasons, if any, for the same ?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The levy of interest on belated payments of revenue is effected by way of penalty as provided for and agreed to by the contracting parties in the concerned agreements according to the specific character and importance of the undertakings and obligations involved.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) May I know from the Government whether the Forest Department have notified in the Gazette about the different rates of interest that are charged in different divisions?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No notification was published in the Gazette.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know from the member whether he has gone through the Gazette dated the 18th and the 32nd Mithunam?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, I have gone through them.

MR E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In view that the interest charged in different divisions is different, may I know what the position of Government is with regard to the answer contained in part (*b*)?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It all depends upon the different character of the undertakings by the contracting parties.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What is the basis on which the department has fixed these different rates, 12 per cent. for the Koni Division and 6 per cent. for the Kottayam Division, irrespective of the parties?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It is stated in the answer that it is determined according to the character and importance of the undertakings.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it the position of Government that all undertakings in the Koni Division, unanimously and uniformly, are different from those in the Kottayam Division?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I want to know whether the basis for such distinction is the magnitude———

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It is not a question of the magnitude of the work · the rate of interest depends on the character and importance of the work.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In what respect, I wish to know because the answer does not contemplate any difference between territorial divisions. On the other hand, it contemplates difference in the obligation of parties. It is the Government that say in the answer that there is difference between territorial divisions in the character of undertakings. I want to know the basis for such distinction between territorial divisions?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): There is no difference according to territorial limits; the difference is only according to the nature of work involved.

Sale of Soft-wood.

32. *MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 317 (*a*) of the Third Session of this Assembly:

(*a*) the quantity of soft-wood logs sold by the Forest Department during the years 1107, 1108 and 1109;

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